Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for indexing documents in a collection of documents, each document comprising one or more index terms, the method comprising:

determining a value x such that at least a majority of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer, where x is an integer;

determining a value y, where y does not exceed is not equal to x, where y is an integer;

generating an inverted index for the collection of documents, the inverted index including an inverted list for each of the index terms, each inverted list including at least one posting and, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry after the xth posting and one or more skip entries thereafter at intervals of every y^{th} posting; wherein:

a posting includes a document identifier identifying a document in the collection of documents;

a skip entry includes a document identifier that is included in a boundary posting of a block of postings immediately adjacent to the skip entry in the inverted list, where a block of postings includes postings having document identifiers ranging from a lower to

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an upper value and where a boundary posting is a posting having a document identifier of either the lower or the upper value.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each posting further includes a [[a]] position identifier identifying a position of the index term in the document, and a frequency of the index term occurring in the document.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the boundary posting includes a document identifier having the lower value in the range of values and the block of postings immediately follow the skip entry in the inverted list.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the boundary posting includes a document identifier having the higher value in the range of values and the block of postings immediately precede the skip entry in the inverted list.

6.   (Original) The method claim 5, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein y is less than x.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein x is in [[the]] a first range of 256 to 512 and y is in [[the]] a second range of 128 to 256.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the collection of one or more documents includes one or more binary files, data tables, source code files, text documents or combinations thereof.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

compressing the inverted index.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein substantially all of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein <u>at least</u> approximately 80<u>%</u> to 90% of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein for each inverted list, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry before the first posting in the inverted list.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein for each inverted list, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry after the last posting in the inverted list.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for indexing documents, the method comprising:

receiving a collection of documents, each document comprising one or more index terms;

determining a value x, wherein at least a majority of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer and x is an integer in [[the]] <u>a first</u> range of 256 to 512;

determining a value y, wherein y <u>does not exceed</u> is not equal to the value x and is an integer in [[the]] a <u>second</u> range of 128 to 256; and

generating an inverted index for the collection of documents, the inverted index including an inverted list for each of the index terms, each inverted list including at least one posting and, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry after the xth posting and one or more skip entries thereafter at intervals of every y^{th} posting; wherein:

a posting includes a document identifier identifying a document in the collection of documents;

a skip entry includes a document identifier that is included in a boundary posting of a block of postings immediately adjacent to the skip entry in the inverted list, where a block of postings includes postings having document identifiers ranging from a lower to an upper value and where a boundary posting is a posting having a document identifier of either the lower or the upper value.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein each posting further includes[[,]] a position identifier identifying a position of the index term in the document, and a frequency of the index term occurring in the document.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the boundary posting includes a document identifier having the lower value in the range of values and the block of postings immediately follows the skip entry in the inverted list.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the boundary posting includes a document identifier having the higher value in the range of values and the block of postings immediately precede the skip entry in the inverted list.

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20.   (Original) The method claim 15, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein substantially all of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein approximately 80 to 90% of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein for each inverted list, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry before the first posting in the inverted list.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein for each inverted list, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry after the last posting in the inverted list.

25.   (Currently Amended) An inverted index for a collection of documents, each document comprising one or more index terms, the inverted index comprising:

an inverted list for each index term in the collection of documents; and

one or more inverted lists including a quantity of postings that exceeds a value x, a skip entry after the xth posting, and one or more additional skip entries thereafter at intervals of every y^{th} posting, where the value x is such that at least a majority of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer, and the value y does not exceed is not equal to the value x and x and y are integers;

wherein:

a posting includes a document identifier identifying a document in the collection of documents;

a skip entry includes a document identifier that is included in a boundary posting of a block of postings immediately adjacent to the skip entry in the inverted list, where a block of postings includes postings having document identifiers ranging from a lower to an upper value and where a boundary posting is a posting having a document identifier of either the lower or the upper value.

26.   (Previously Presented) The inverted index of claim 25, wherein each posting further a position identifier identifying a position of the index term in the document, and a frequency of the index term occurring in the document.

27.   (Currently Amended) The inverted index of claim 25, wherein the boundary posting includes a document identifier having the lower value in the range of values and the block of postings immediately follow the skip entry in the inverted list.

28.   (Original) The inverted index of claim 27, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

29.   (Currently Amended) The inverted index of claim 25, wherein the boundary posting includes a document identifier having the higher value in the range of values and the block of postings immediately precede the skip entry in the inverted list.

30.   (Original) The inverted index of claim 29, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

31.   (Currently Amended) The inverted index of claim 25, wherein x is in [[the]] a first range of 256 to 512 and y is in [[the]] a second range of 128 to 256.

32.   (Original) The inverted index of claim 25, wherein substantially all of

the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

33.   (Currently Amended) The inverted index of claim 32, wherein <u>at</u>
<u>least</u> approximately 80<u>%</u> to 90% of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

34.   (Original) The inverted index of claim 25, wherein the collection of
one or more documents includes one or more binary files, data tables, source code
files, text documents or combinations thereof.

35.   (Original) The inverted index of claim 25, wherein the one or more
inverted lists further include a skip entry before the first posting in the inverted list.

36.   (Original) The inverted index of claim 25, wherein the one or more
inverted lists further include a skip entry after the last posting in the inverted list.

37.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable
medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform
operations comprising:

determining a value x such that at least a majority of the index terms occur in x
documents or fewer, where x is an integer;

determining a value y, where y is not equal to <u>does not exceed</u> x and where y is
an integer;

generating an inverted index for the collection of documents, the inverted index
including an inverted list for each of the index terms, each inverted list including at least
one posting and, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry after
the xth posting and one or more skip entries thereafter at intervals of every y^{th} posting;

wherein:

a posting includes a document identifier identifying a document in the collection of documents;

a skip entry includes a document identifier that is included in a boundary posting of a block of postings immediately adjacent to the skip entry in the inverted list, where a block of postings includes postings having document identifiers ranging from a lower to an upper value and where a boundary posting is a posting having a document identifier of either the lower or the upper value.

38.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 37, wherein each posting further includes a position identifier identifying a position of the index term in the document, and a frequency of the index term occurring in the document.

39.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 37, wherein the boundary posting includes a document identifier having the lower value in the range of values and the block of postings immediately follow the skip entry in the inverted list.

40.   (Original) The article of claim 39, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

41.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 37, wherein the boundary posting includes a document identifier having the higher value in the range of values and the block of postings immediately precede the skip entry in the inverted list.

42.   (Original) The article of claim 41, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

43.   (Original) The article of claim 37, wherein y is less than x.

44.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 37, wherein x is in [[the]] a first range of 256 to 512 and y is in [[the]] a second range of 128 to 256.

45.   (Original) The article of claim 37, wherein the collection of one or more documents includes one or more binary files, data tables, source code files, text documents or combinations thereof.

46.   (Original) The article of claim 37, further comprising instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

compressing the inverted index.

47.   (Original) The article of claim 37, wherein substantially all of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

48.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 47, wherein at least approximately 80% to 90% of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

49.   (Original) The article of claim 37, wherein for each inverted list, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry before the first posting in the inverted list.

50.   (Original) The article of claim 37, wherein for each inverted list, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry after the last posting in the inverted list.

51.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions operable to cause one or more machines to perform operations comprising:

receiving a collection of documents, each document comprising one or more index terms;

determining a value x, wherein at least a majority of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer and x is an integer in [[the]] a first range of 256 to 512;

determining a value y, wherein y <u>does not exceed</u> ~~not equal to~~ the value of x and is an integer in [[the]] <u>a second</u> range of 128 to 256;

generating an inverted index for the collection of documents, the inverted index including an inverted list for each of the index terms, each inverted list including at least one posting and, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry after the xth posting and one or more skip entries thereafter at intervals of every y^{th} posting; wherein:

a posting includes a document identifier identifying a document in the collection of documents;

a skip entry includes a document identifier that is included in a boundary posting of a block of postings immediately adjacent to the skip entry in the inverted list, where a block of postings includes postings having document identifiers ranging from a lower to an upper value and where a boundary posting is a posting having a document identifier of either the lower or the upper value.

52.   (Previously Presented) The article of claim 51, wherein each posting further includes a position identifier identifying a position of the index term in the document, and a frequency of the index term occurring in the document.

53.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 51, wherein the boundary posting includes a document identifier having the lower value in the range of values and the block of postings ~~immediately~~ follow the skip entry in the inverted list.

54.   (Original) The article of claim 53, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

55.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 51, wherein the boundary

posting includes a document identifier having the higher value in the range of values and the block of postings ~~immediately~~ precede the skip entry in the inverted list.

56.   (Original) The article of claim 51, wherein the skip entry further includes information to locate the next skip entry in the inverted list.

57.   (Original) The article of claim 51, wherein substantially all of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

58.   (Original) The article of claim 57, wherein approximately 80 to 90% of the index terms occur in x documents or fewer.

59.   (Original) The article of claim 51, wherein for each inverted list, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry before the first posting in the inverted list.

60.   (Original) The article of claim 51, wherein for each inverted list, if the number of postings exceeds x, further including a skip entry after the last posting in the inverted list.